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# THE WAR IS ONE OF EXHAUSTION

(London Chronicle)

It is now Germany that is being subjected to a war of exhaustion. Her strength is still great, and though the odds against her are now great and will continue to increase, the process of wearing her out will take time. Only prolonged fighting will weaken her resistance.

To put it briefly, the war is now a matter of killing Germans and Austrians, Bulgarians and Turks, but principally Germans. That killing will go on in every front from the Persian gulf to the Baltic and the Alps to the Caucasus. In such a war of exhaustion the gain or loss of ground here or there is of relatively minor importance. For a time the balance may even seem to fluctuate, though in all likelihood the enemy's clothing and remote fronts may start to cave in at an early stage. But really decisive results will begin to happen when the process of sheer killing has reached such a stage that the enemy is no longer able to man all of his lines of defense and has to fall back upon more easily held positions. To short, we must expect to hear not the enemy first and then his back afterwards. When that stage of enemy exhaustion begins to manifest itself, events will come with a rush, but we must not expect that rush here and now.

We may apply these general considerations to the present battlefront in France. A glance at the general map will show that on this occasion we have in front of us no immediate geographical objective. Behind the German lines there is no great fortress city like Lille or Nancy and no center like Lens, the capture of which would make a far-reaching change in the strategic situation. The country is one of rolling downs, cultivated to the summit, crossed at rare intervals with roads and railways and dotted here and there with country villages and small market towns. Some twenty miles to the rear of the German line there is, it is true, the trunk line that runs from Lille and Maubeuge to St. Quentin, and the seizure of this line would render the German occupation of the historic and formidable ridge crowned by the old fortresses of Laon and La Fere impossible. The wedge of the German salient on the Aisne and Meuse would have to be blunted, and the uncomfortable presence of the enemy hardly more than sixty miles from Paris would be brought to an end. But in modern warfare twenty miles is a great distance and an advance to the St. Quentin line is hardly within immediate probability.

## Days in the Woods

(Walt Whitman)

I find the woods in mid-day, and early find my best places for contemplation. Benth on logs or stumps, or resting on rocks, nearly all the following memoranda have been jotted down. Whenever I go, indeed, winter or summer, city or country, alone or in company, I must take notes—the ruling passion strong in age and debilitation and even the approach of—oh! I must not say it yet. After you have exhausted what there is to business, politics, conviviality, love and so on—have found that none of these finally satisfy or permanently wear—what remains? Nature remains, to bring you out from their torpid recesses the activities of man or woman with the open air, the trees, fields, the changes of seasons—the sun by day and the stars of heaven by night.

Did you ever chance to hear the midnight flight of birds through the darkness overhead in countless angles, changing their early or late summer habits? It is something not to be forgotten. A friend called me up just after 12 last night to mark the peculiar noise of autumn in the intense flocks migrating north. In the silence, shadow and delirious odor of the hazy cliff natural perfume, belonging to the night alone, I thought it rare music. You could hear the characteristic motion—once or twice—the rush of mighty wings, but after a while a velvet hush came down, and sometimes came down with musical gulls and chirps and some song notes. It all lasted until after 2. Once in a while the species was slightly distinguishable: I could make out the bobolink, the sparrow, the white-throated sparrow, and occasionally from high in the air came the notes of the plover.

June 19—As I write, I am in my bare by the creek, nothing can exceed the quiet splendor and freshness around me. We had a heavy shower with brief thunder and lightning in the middle of the day, and since one of those hot summer rains, red, indistinguishable from the others, with rolling silver fringed clouds and a pure shining sun. The country, free in fullness of foliage, follows from me, every long-drawn note of birds—based by the fresh viewing of a riverbank, and the pleasant chirping chirp of two kingfishers. They pursue each other, whistling and wheeling around with many a sound downward and upward the spray in sets of diamonds, and then off they swoop, with skimming wings and graceful flight, sometimes so near one I can plainly see their dark eyes flashing below and their feet peck.

## The Art of Optimism

(William De Witt Hyde)

Face to the active cause, which of what you can do rather than of what happens to you, is the relative mood, concerned with facts as they are rather than as they seem to be. In the present sense, concentrated on the duty in hand, without regard for the past or worry about the future, in the first person, constructive, self rather than condemning others, in the singular number, seeking the approval of your own conscience rather than popularity with the many. Whoever lives the life of such unselfish devotion to the good of others and of all, and lives it in the active way, indicative mood, present tense, first person, singular number, is bound to find his life full and rich and glad and free, is bound, in other words, to be an optimist.

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### THE GREAT WORK OF DR. EHRlich

Dr. von Wassermann, Dr. A. A. von der Osten

The news of the death of Paul Ehrlich on August 18, 1915, even to the most casual student of the world, was able immediately to connect the passing of this great man with the passing of the world's greatest chemist. It was felt that one of the world's greatest men had passed away, one whose whole life had been devoted to the amelioration and prevention of human suffering.

In bringing out salvarsan, Ehrlich realized the dream of his life. In this preparation, the famous six, he found a remedy which in its action upon the syphilis spirochetes surpassed all that had been tried. It was known that Ehrlich had in his mind the idea of attacking the spirochetes with a substance which would be hypersensitive to mercury, and would be in danger of becoming deadly.

Although in the case of all other great discoveries, a long-continued action of the mind is required, which is paralleled in some other of the scientific preparation, Ehrlich lived to see the world-wide triumph of his preparation, which has won the place for all time in the treatment of syphilis. The discovery and preparation of salvarsan, which is the result of many years of logical thought and chemical experiment, is one of the greatest triumphs of modern experimental science. As an idea in these researches, Ehrlich had before him the motto, "Experimentum veritas." The possibility of destroying the entire mass of parasites with one shot. The preparation has also proved to cure the patient.

That this ideal was not a utopian but a scientific practice, is demonstrated by the experience with salvarsan, in another syphilis disease, viz. thrombo-lysis or yaws. This tropical disease was fairly exterminated by salvarsan, so that most of the hospitals for yaws could be closed.

care of himself. With nothing significant in the present way, for it has been found to be a powerful remedy against the protozoa of leishmaniasis. By this means the danger which constantly threatened the efficiency of cavalry troops has been removed. It has been extended also in other syphilis diseases, such as strychnine, and other important tropical diseases, in order to obtain remedies for these. These studies by him to make the better metals, particularly copper, in the salvarsan complex, in order to augment still further the efficiency of the preparation with respect to trypanosomes.

No wonder that he owned himself. But in the preparation of salvarsan, he was on the right road, then he went to work upon it. The result was salvarsan. Then he turned again to his earlier researches, followed studies of the trypanosomes, the causative agents of sleeping sickness, and other important tropical diseases, in order to obtain remedies for these. These studies by him to make the better metals, particularly copper, in the salvarsan complex, in order to augment still further the efficiency of the preparation with respect to trypanosomes.

Unfortunately, during the exciting months of the salvarsan controversy, he could not be induced to take good care of himself. With extreme zeal he followed up scientific inquiries produced by salvarsan, by other preparations, or personally and those who witnessed the excitement and the devotion of his whole personality to defending the efficacy of his preparation, produced with such great successful effort, resulted with apprehension that exhausting activity of this kind could not in the long run be carried on.

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